

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 was rejected as anticipated by Fujita. Claim 8 recites "comparing *the signal* with" [emphasis added]. As disclosed, for example, in the Summary of the Invention, "The input signal itself is not converted into digital form yet the data derived from the input signal has high resolution" [specification, page 5, lines 1–3]. In the apparatus disclosed by Fujita, the input signal is converted into data in front end processor 3.

The Fujita published application discloses logarithmic power operation section 4 ahead of voice deciding section 5. There is no comparison of an electrical signal with two voltage thresholds, as recited. Rather, the prior art calculates power and compares the power data with a threshold.

The Fujita published application discloses comparing the power data to power thresholds, not voltage thresholds, as recited.

Applicants' invention does not measure or calculate energy but provides digital data *representative* of energy; see Background of the Invention and page 4, lines 14–17, and page 4, line 29, of specification. By not calculating energy, one significantly reduces complexity yet the invention provides a reliable indication of energy. Despite the simplicity of the apparatus illustrated in applicants' FIG. 1, an analog input signal is converted into digital data representing energy in a single operation. Nothing like this is remotely disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

Claim 8 has been amended to clarify the recitation of an analog signal. No change in scope is intended. The changes are merely to emphasize what has recited originally.

The allowance of claims 1–7 and the allowance in substance of claims 9 and 10 is noted with appreciation.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-10 are in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul F. Wille".

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